MARVEL COMICS
FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS PART ONE
the SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN
THE VULTURE'S™ GOING TO DIE--
--AND HE ISN'T GOING TO DO IT ALONE!
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30TH ANNIVERSARY
1962 1992
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER, STUDENT PETER PARKER GAINED THE PROPORTIONATE STRENGTH AND AGILITY OF AN ARACHNID! ARMED WITH HIS WONDROUS WEB-SHOOTERS, THE RELUCTANT SUPER HERO STRUGGLES WITH SINISTER SUPER-VILLAINS, MAKING ENDS MEET, AND MAINTAINING SOME SEMBLANCE OF A NORMAL LIFE!

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN!™

Look at him: so terrified he can't say a word. Funny time to learn how to keep his mouth shut.
He thought I didn't know about him going to the police. Trying to make some spare change by putting them on to my hideout.
If he would've shut up five years ago, he wouldn't be in this mess now.
Didn't really matter then-- I was too smart for him. Too smart for all of them. By the time the cops showed up, I was long gone.
And Frankie Fillmore? I knew I'd catch up with him some day. I was the Vulture, right? And I had all the time in the world.

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS PART ONE: SETTLING SCORES

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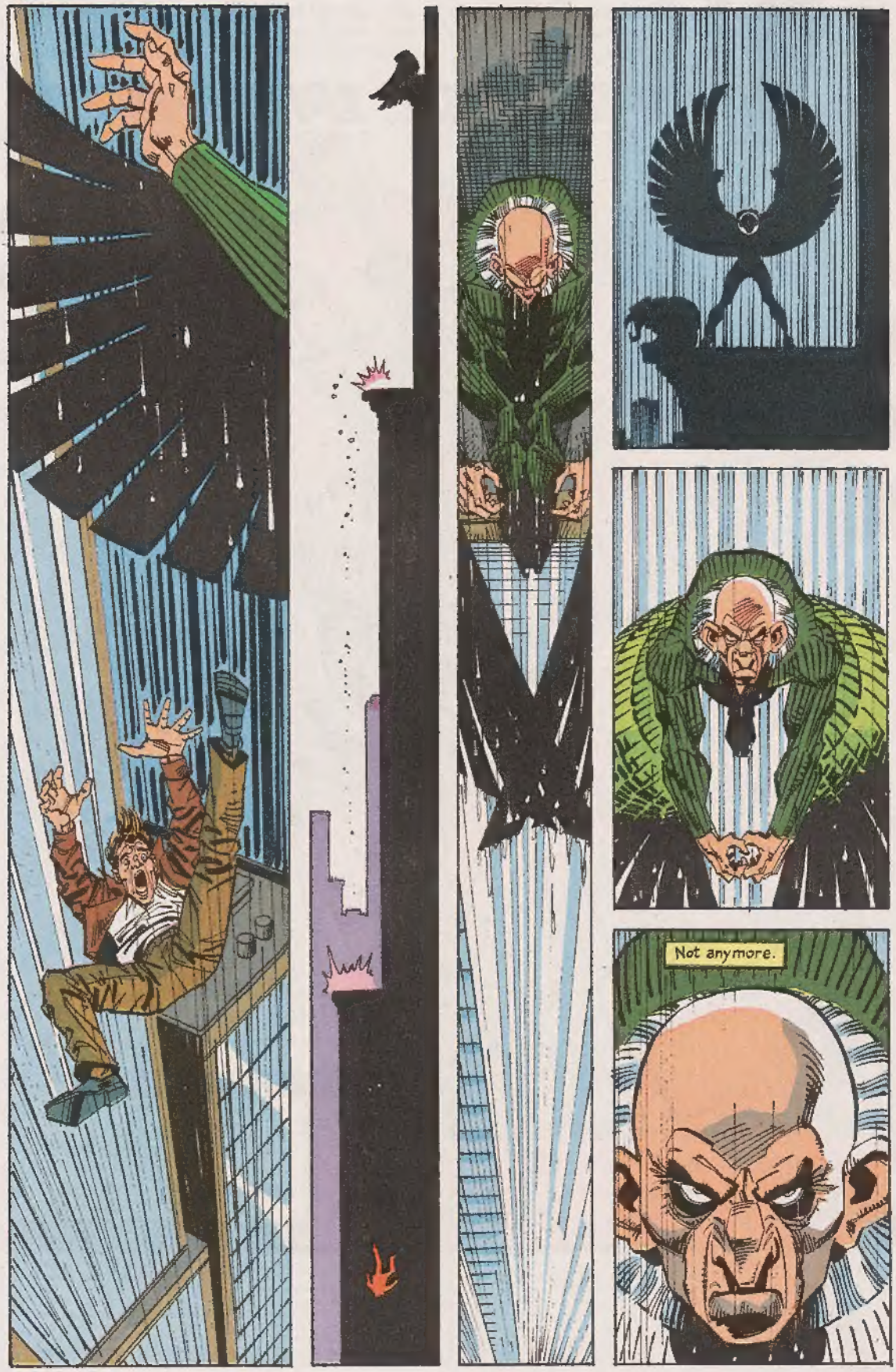
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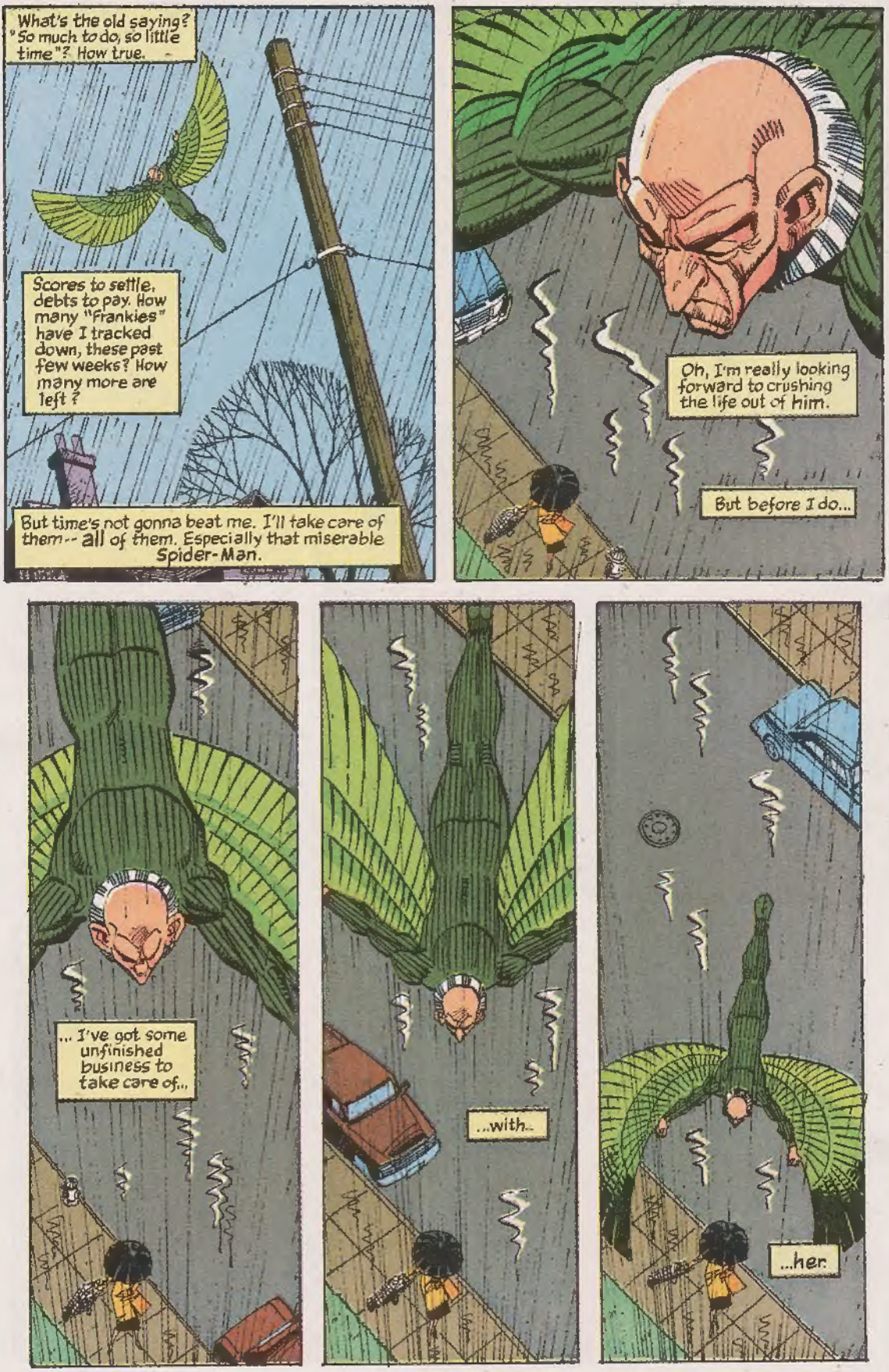
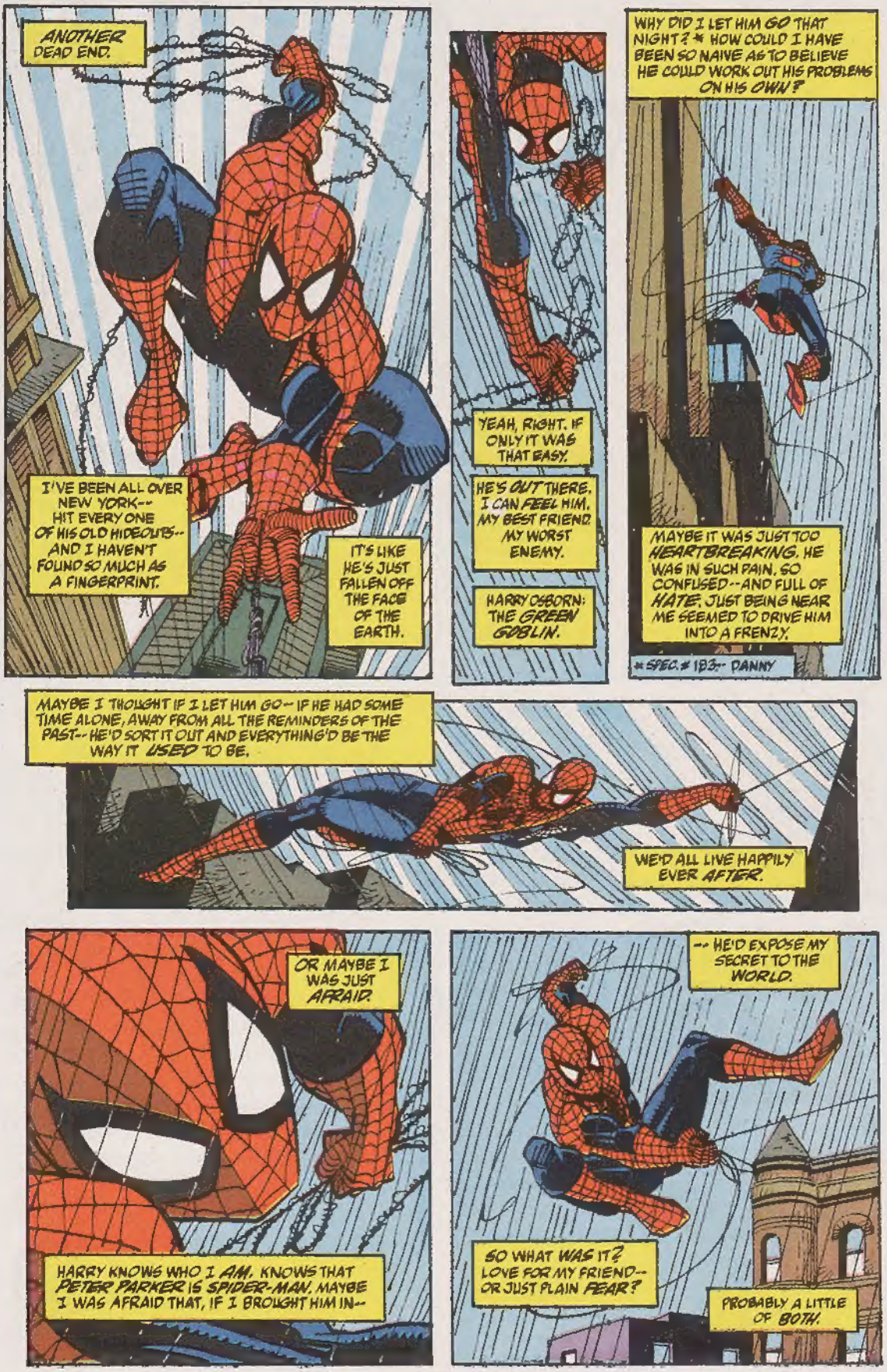
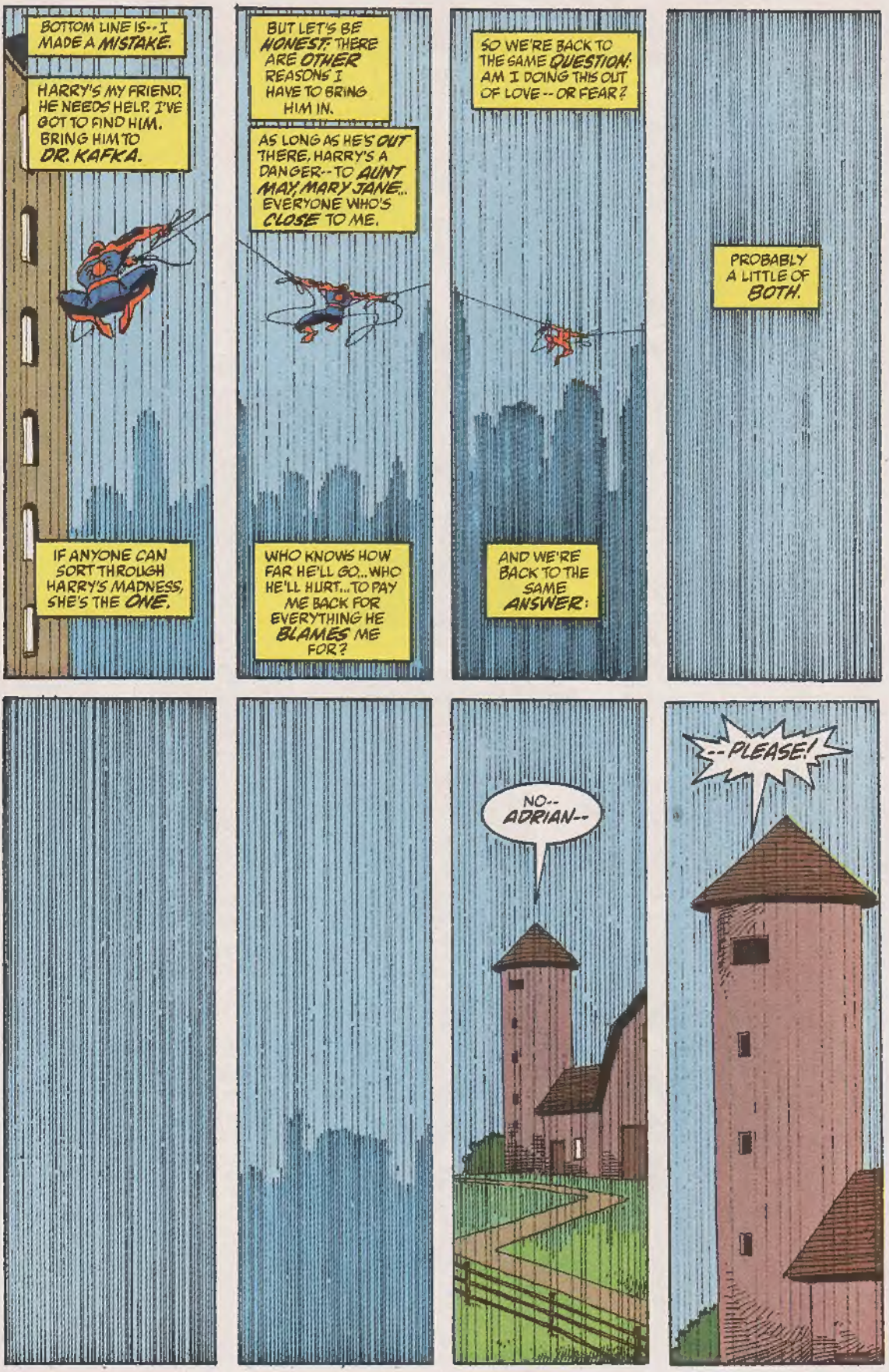

What's the old saying? "So much to do, so little time"? How true.
Scores to settle, debts to pay. How many "Frankies" have I tracked down, these past few weeks? How many more are left?
But time's not gonna beat me. I'll take care of them-- all of them. Especially that miserable Spider-Man.
Oh, I'm really looking forward to crushing the life out of him.
But before I do...
... I've got some unfinished business to take care of...
...with...
...her.

No!
I'm not ready for this! Not yet!
I need time to plan. Think it out. Yes...
...just a little more time.
OH... NO!
MY FAVORITE UMBRELLA.
DON'T WORRY--
--THE CAVALRY'S JUST ARRIVED.
NOW C'MON UNDER HERE AND LET ME HELP YOU GET THOSE GROCERIES HOME--
--AUNT MAY.
MARY JANE--
--YOU'RE A LIFE-SAVER.

KRA SH
KLIK

KRAKKK

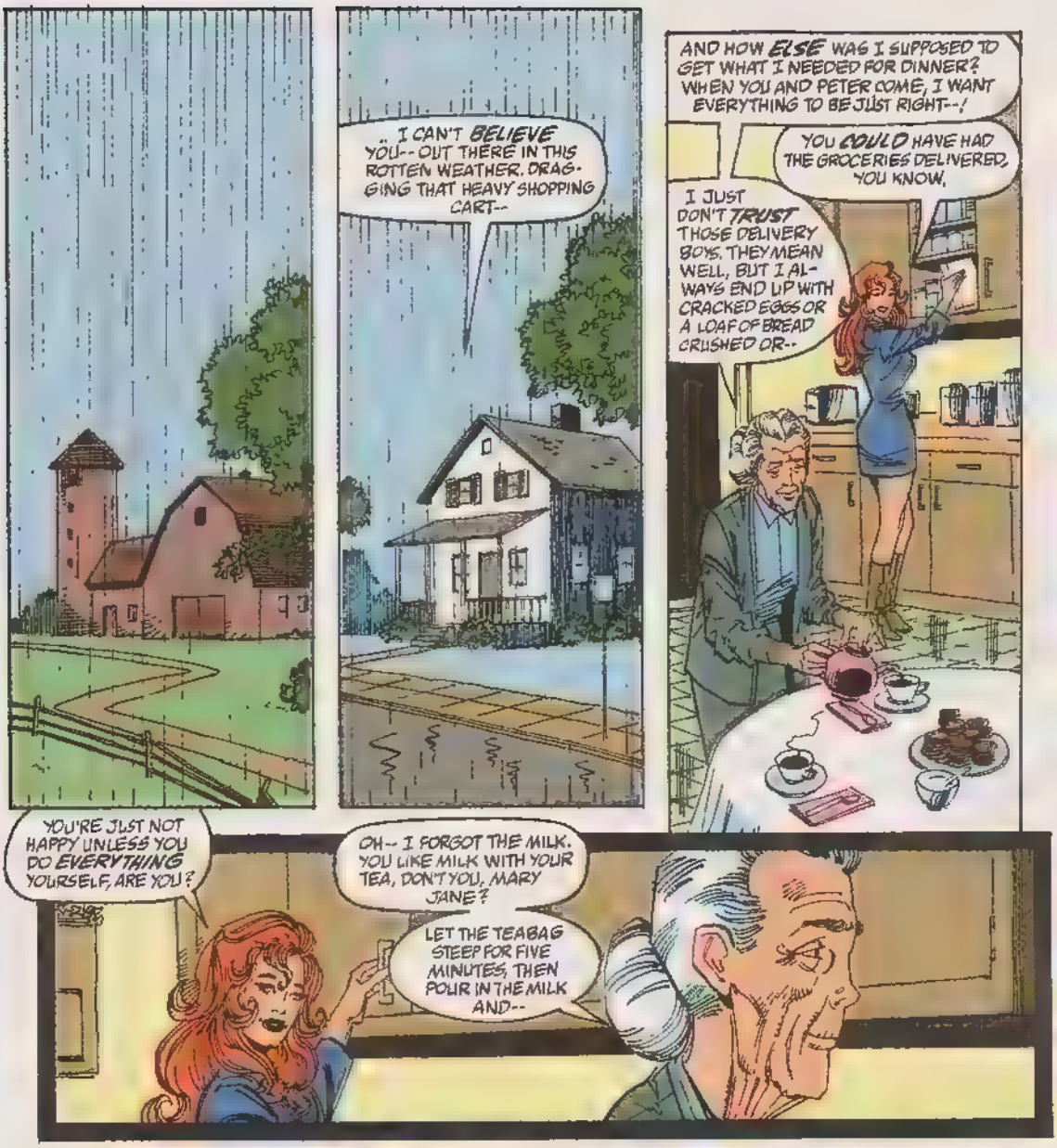

ANOTHER DEAD END.
I'VE BEEN ALL OVER NEW YORK-- HIT EVERY ONE OF HIS OLD HIDEOUTS-- AND I HAVEN'T FOUND SO MUCH AS A FINGERPRINT.
IT'S LIKE HE'S JUST FALLEN OFF THE FACE OF THE EARTH.
YEAH, RIGHT. IF ONLY IT WAS THAT EASY.
HE'S OUT THERE. I CAN FEEL HIM. MY BEST FRIEND. MY WORST ENEMY.
HARRY OSBORN: THE GREEN GOBLIN.
WHY DID I LET HIM GO THAT NIGHT? * HOW COULD I HAVE BEEN SO NAIVE AS TO BELIEVE HE COULD WORK OUT HIS PROBLEMS ON HIS OWN?
MAYBE IT WAS JUST TOO HEARTBREAKING. HE WAS IN SUCH PAIN, SO CONFUSED--AND FULL OF HATE. JUST BEING NEAR ME SEEMED TO DRIVE HIM INTO A FRENZY.
* SPEC. # 183-- DANNY
MAYBE I THOUGHT IF I LET HIM GO-- IF HE HAD SOME TIME ALONE, AWAY FROM ALL THE REMINDERS OF THE PAST-- HE'D SORT IT OUT AND EVERYTHING'D BE THE WAY IT USED TO BE.
WE'D ALL LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER.
OR MAYBE I WAS JUST AFRAID.
HARRY KNOWS WHO I AM. KNOWS THAT PETER PARKER IS SPIDER-MAN. MAYBE I WAS AFRAID THAT, IF I BROUGHT HIM IN--
-- HE'D EXPOSE MY SECRET TO THE WORLD.
SO WHAT WAS IT? LOVE FOR MY FRIEND-- OR JUST PLAIN FEAR?
PROBABLY A LITTLE OF BOTH.

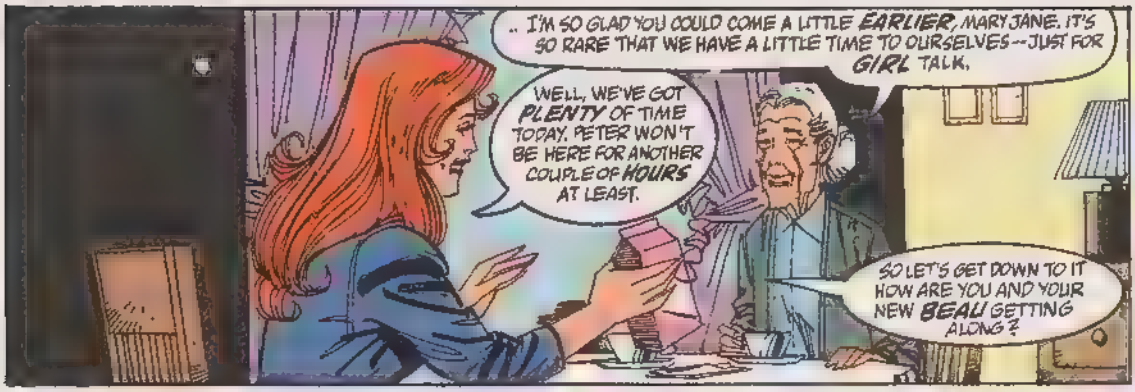

BOTTOM LINE IS--I MADE A MISTAKE.
HARRY'S MY FRIEND. HE NEEDS HELP. I'VE GOT TO FIND HIM. BRING HIM TO DR. KAFKA.
IF ANYONE CAN SORT THROUGH HARRY'S MADNESS, SHE'S THE ONE.
BUT LET'S BE HONEST. THERE ARE OTHER REASONS I HAVE TO BRING HIM IN.
AS LONG AS HE'S OUT THERE, HARRY'S A DANGER--TO AUNT MAY, MARY JANE... EVERYONE WHO'S CLOSE TO ME.
WHO KNOWS HOW FAR HE'LL GO... WHO HE'LL HURT... TO PAY ME BACK FOR EVERYTHING HE BLAMES ME FOR?
SO WE'RE BACK TO THE SAME QUESTION: AM I DOING THIS OUT OF LOVE--OR FEAR?
AND WE'RE BACK TO THE SAME ANSWER:
PROBABLY A LITTLE OF BOTH.
NO-- ADRIAN--
--PLEASE!

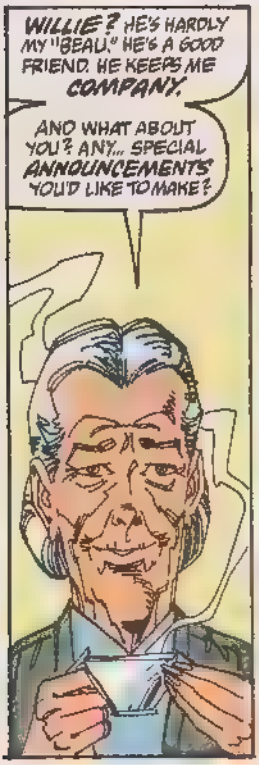
--DON'T HIT ME AGAIN!
GREGORY, GREGORY, GREGORY, DON'T BEG. IT'S SO UNBECOMING IN A MAN OF YOUR STATURE.
RESPECTED BUSINESSMAN. PILLAR OF THE COMMUNITY.
WH-WHAT DO YOU WANT, ADRIAN? MONEY?
I'LL GIVE YOU MONEY! ALL THE MONEY YOU COULD EVER--
KRAKK!
IDIOT!
YOU REALLY THINK A MAN'S LIFE CAN BE REDUCED TO A SUM?
YOU REALLY THINK A STACK OF BILLS COULD EVER MAKE UP FOR ALL YOU DID TO ME?

THERE'S SOMETHING YOU SHOULD KNOW, GREGORY. I'M DYING.
THAT'S RIGHT. CANCER. SPREADING FAST AND THERE'S NOT A THING THE DOCTORS CAN DO ABOUT IT.
THE JOKE IS, I CAUSED IT MYSELF. GOT IT FROM THE ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELD THAT MY POWER-PACK GENERATES. MADE ME FLY. GAVE ME INCREDIBLE STRENGTH.
AND CLAIMED MY LIFE!
I... I'M AN OLD MAN, GREGORY. I'VE LIVED A LONG LIFE -- ONE I'M NOT NECESSARILY PROUD OF. AND -- WHEN I DIE -- I WANT TO GO WITH A CLEAR CONSCIENCE.
I WANT THE LEDGER OF MY LIFE IN BALANCE.
YOU CHEATED ME, BROKE ME... ALL THOSE YEARS AGO.* THERE'S BEEN SUCH AWFUL BITTERNESS BETWEEN US FOR SO LONG --
-- AND WE'VE NEVER MADE OUR PEACE.
*THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #241 -- Danny
A MAN SEES WITH DIFFERENT EYES WHEN HE'S FACING DEATH. AND I THINK IT'S TIME, ONCE AND FOR ALL, TO PUT THE PAST TO REST --
YES, ADRIAN... YES! L-LET'S PUT THE PAST BEHIND US -- LET'S --
≥ uhhhhh --≤
SNAP

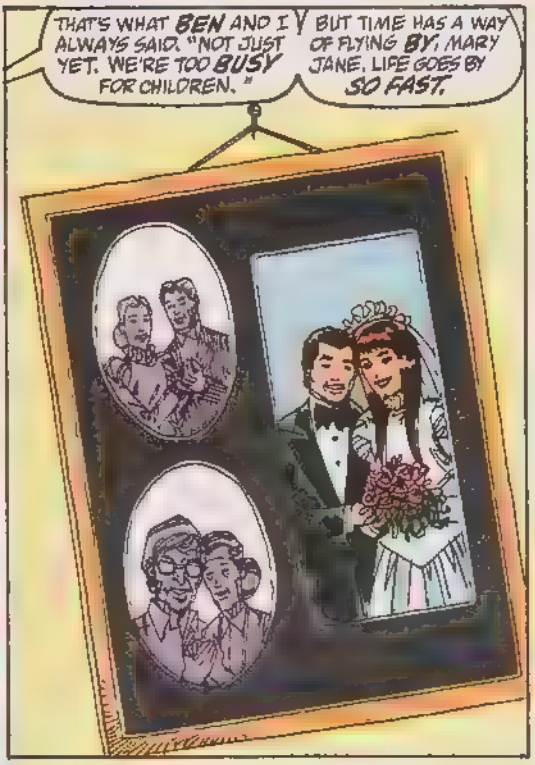
I FEEL SO MUCH BETTER NOW.

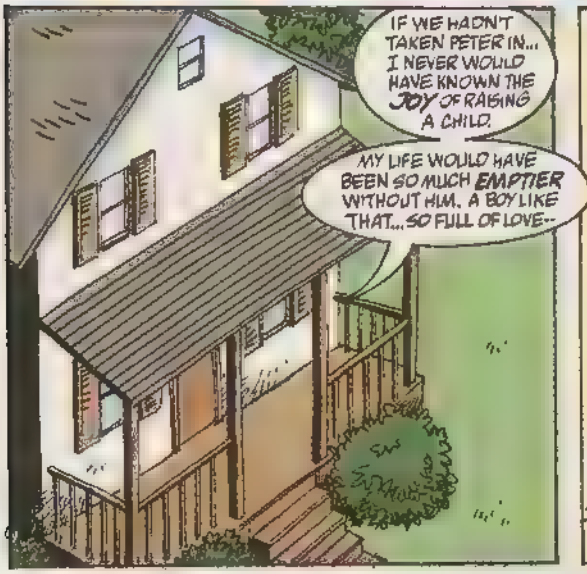

...I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU-- OUT THERE IN THIS ROTTEN WEATHER, DRAGGING THAT HEAVY SHOPPING CART--
AND HOW ELSE WAS I SUPPOSED TO GET WHAT I NEEDED FOR DINNER? WHEN YOU AND PETER COME, I WANT EVERYTHING TO BE JUST RIGHT--!
YOU COULD HAVE HAD THE GROCERIES DELIVERED, YOU KNOW.
I JUST DON'T TRUST THOSE DELIVERY BOYS. THEY MEAN WELL, BUT I ALWAYS END UP WITH CRACKED EGGS OR A LOAF OF BREAD CRUSHED OR--
YOU'RE JUST NOT HAPPY UNLESS YOU DO EVERYTHING YOURSELF, ARE YOU?
OH-- I FORGOT THE MILK. YOU LIKE MILK WITH YOUR TEA, DON'T YOU, MARY JANE?
LET THE TEABAG STEEP FOR FIVE MINUTES, THEN POUR IN THE MILK AND--
LET ME DO IT, MAY.
YOU JUST SIT DOWN AND RELAX.
BUT--
YOU'RE ALWAYS RUNNING, TAKING CARE OF EVERYBODY ...JUST LIKE YOUR NEPHEW.
BUT...
SIT.

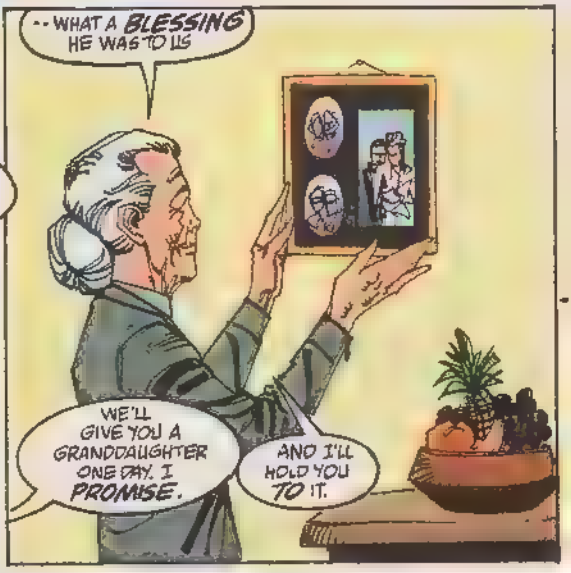

.. I'M SO GLAD YOU COULD COME A LITTLE EARLIER, MARY JANE. IT'S SO RARE THAT WE HAVE A LITTLE TIME TO OURSELVES--JUST FOR GIRL TALK.
WELL, WE'VE GOT PLENTY OF TIME TODAY. PETER WON'T BE HERE FOR ANOTHER COUPLE OF HOURS AT LEAST.
SO LET'S GET DOWN TO IT HOW ARE YOU AND YOUR NEW BEAU GETTING ALONG?

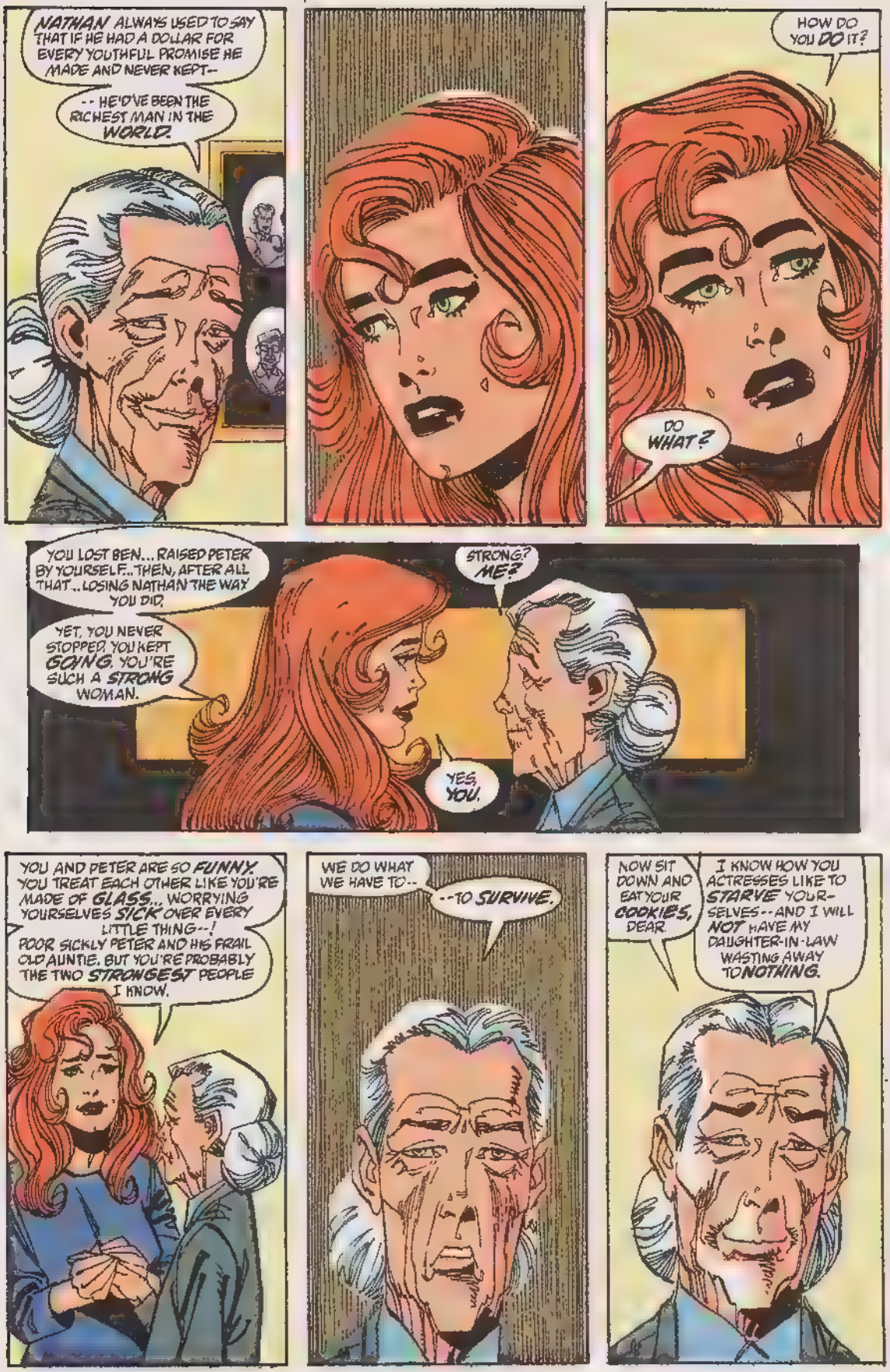

WILLIE? HE'S HARDLY MY "BEAU." HE'S A GOOD FRIEND. HE KEEPS ME COMPANY.
AND WHAT ABOUT YOU? ANY... SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS YOU'D LIKE TO MAKE?

IF YOU MEAN AM I PREGNANT-- NO. WE'RE NOT READY FOR CHILDREN YET, MAY.

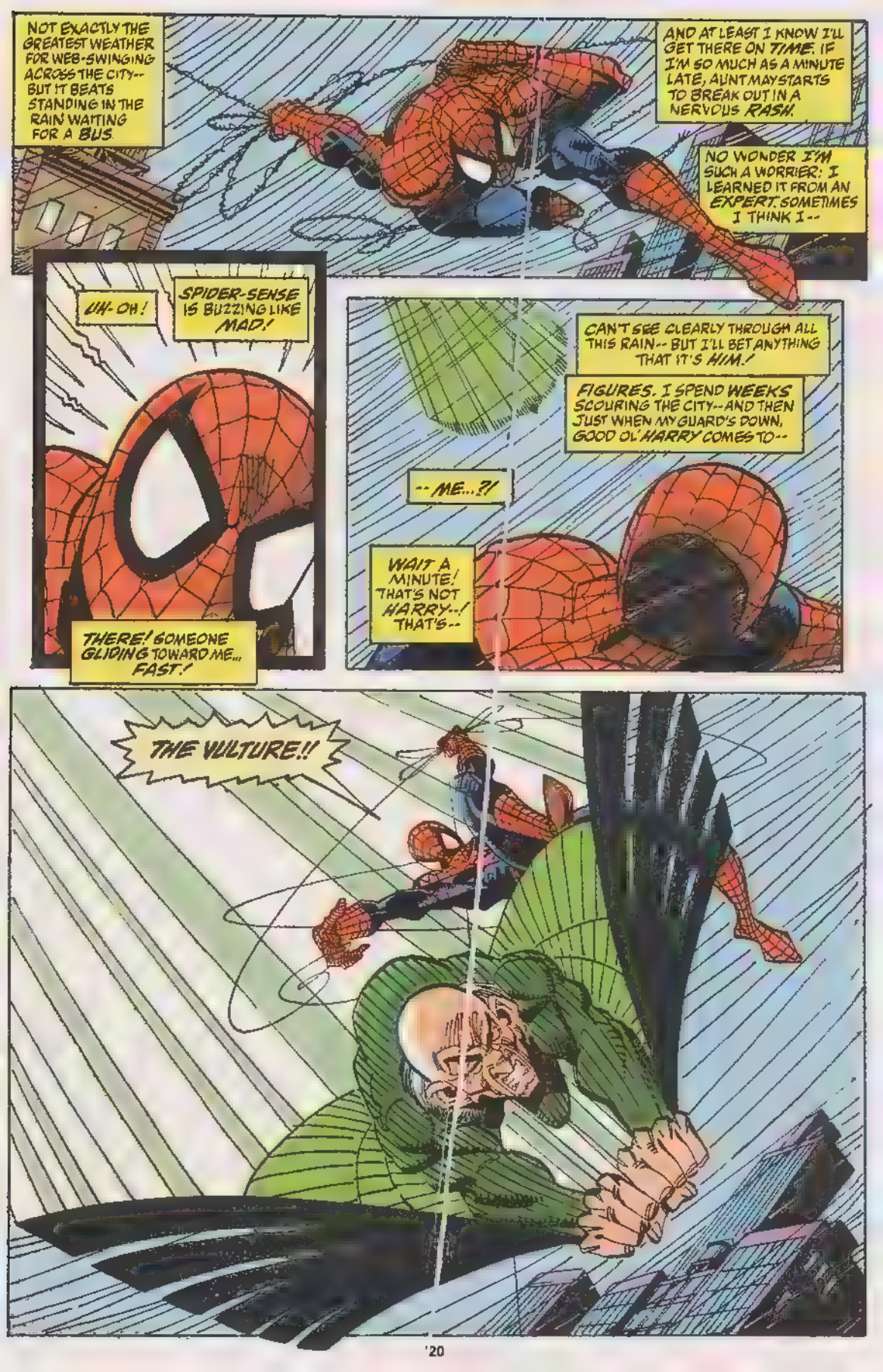

THAT'S WHAT BEN AND I ALWAYS SAID. "NOT JUST YET. WE'RE TOO BUSY FOR CHILDREN."
BUT TIME HAS A WAY OF FLYING BY, MARY JANE. LIFE GOES BY SO FAST.

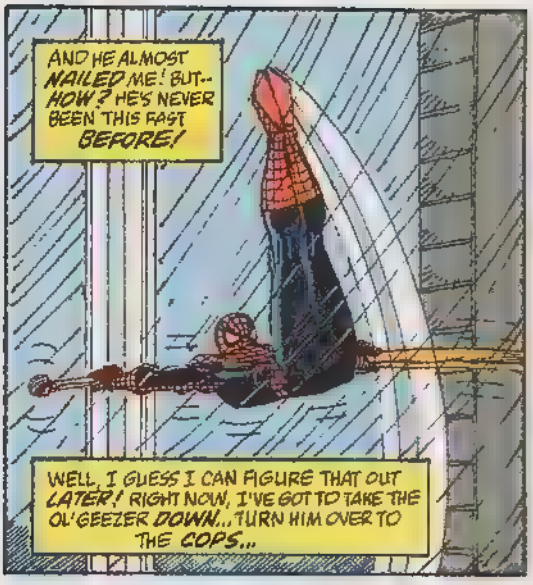

IF WE HADN'T TAKEN PETER IN... I NEVER WOULD HAVE KNOWN THE JOY OF RAISING A CHILD.
MY LIFE WOULD HAVE BEEN SO MUCH EMPTIER WITHOUT HIM. A BOY LIKE THAT... SO FULL OF LOVE--

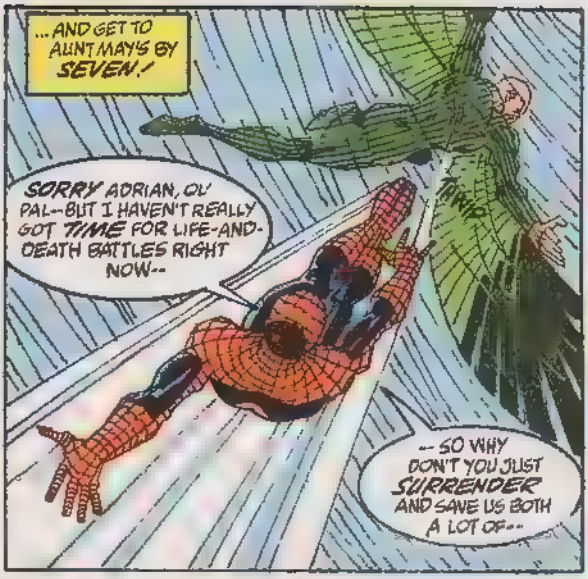

-- WHAT A BLESSING HE WAS TO US
WE'LL GIVE YOU A GRANDDAUGHTER ONE DAY. I PROMISE.
AND I'LL HOLD YOU TO IT.


NATHAN ALWAYS USED TO SAY THAT IF HE HAD A DOLLAR FOR EVERY YOUTHFUL PROMISE HE MADE AND NEVER KEPT--
-- HE'D'VE BEEN THE RICHEST MAN IN THE WORLD.
HOW DO YOU DO IT?
DO WHAT?
YOU LOST BEN... RAISED PETER BY YOURSELF... THEN, AFTER ALL THAT... LOSING NATHAN THE WAY YOU DID.
YET, YOU NEVER STOPPED. YOU KEPT GOING. YOU'RE SUCH A STRONG WOMAN.
STRONG? ME?
YES, YOU.
YOU AND PETER ARE SO FUNNY. YOU TREAT EACH OTHER LIKE YOU'RE MADE OF GLASS... WORRYING YOURSELVES SICK OVER EVERY LITTLE THING--! POOR SICKLY PETER AND HIS FRAIL OLD AUNTIE. BUT YOU'RE PROBABLY THE TWO STRONGEST PEOPLE I KNOW.
WE DO WHAT WE HAVE TO--
--TO SURVIVE.
NOW SIT DOWN AND EAT YOUR COOKIES, DEAR.
I KNOW HOW YOU ACTRESSES LIKE TO STARVE YOURSELVES--AND I WILL NOT HAVE MY DAUGHTER-IN-LAW WASTING AWAY TO NOTHING.

BELIEVE ME--I'M IN ABSOLUTELY NO DANGER OF WASTING AWAY.
THEN HAVE SOME CAKE. I BOUGHT THE MOST WONDERFUL SEVEN LAYER CAKE--
YOU JUST CHANGED THE SUBJECT ON ME, DIDN'T YOU?
OH, MY...! WILL YOU LOOK AT IT OUT THERE?
I HOPE PETER PUTS ON A WARM SWEATER AND HIS GOOD RAINCOAT--
"--THIS STORM'S GETTING WORSE AND WORSE."
Can't put it off any longer. The old woman and I have unfinished business -- and tonight I settle it. once and for all.
Before they lower me into the ground, I'll know that every old score's been settled... every old debt repaid.
I DON'T WANT TO DIE!!
...I...
Well, well, well...
...Perhaps there IS a God, after all!

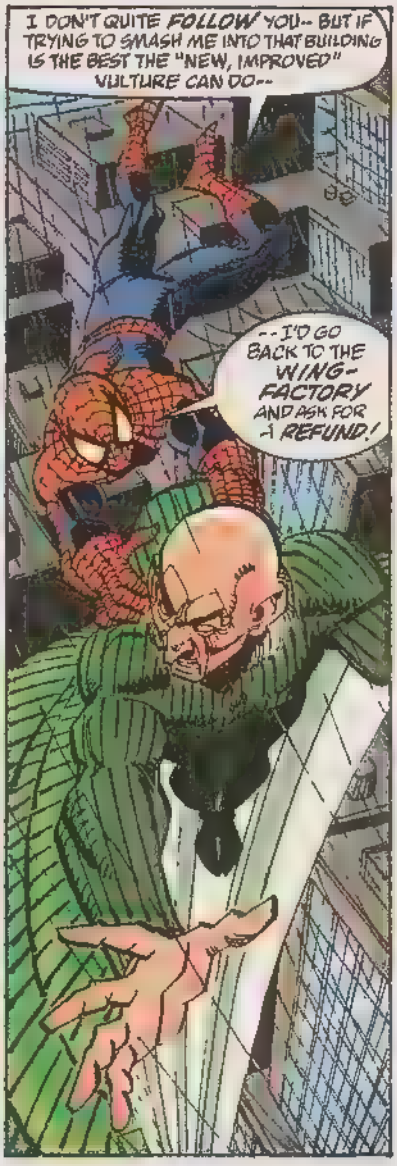

NOT EXACTLY THE GREATEST WEATHER FOR WEB-SWINGING ACROSS THE CITY-- BUT IT BEATS STANDING IN THE RAIN WAITING FOR A BUS.
AND AT LEAST I KNOW I'LL GET THERE ON TIME. IF I'M SO MUCH AS A MINUTE LATE, AUNT MAY STARTS TO BREAK OUT IN A NERVOUS RASH.
NO WONDER I'M SUCH A WORRIER: I LEARNED IT FROM AN EXPERT. SOMETIMES I THINK I--
UH-OH!
SPIDER-SENSE IS BUZZING LIKE MAD!
THERE! SOMEONE GLIDING TOWARD ME... FAST!
CAN'T SEE CLEARLY THROUGH ALL THIS RAIN-- BUT I'LL BET ANYTHING THAT IT'S HIM!
FIGURES. I SPEND WEEKS SCOURING THE CITY--AND THEN JUST WHEN MY GUARD'S DOWN, GOOD OL' HARRY COMES TO--
--ME...?!
WAIT A MINUTE! THAT'S NOT HARRY--! THAT'S--
THE VULTURE!!

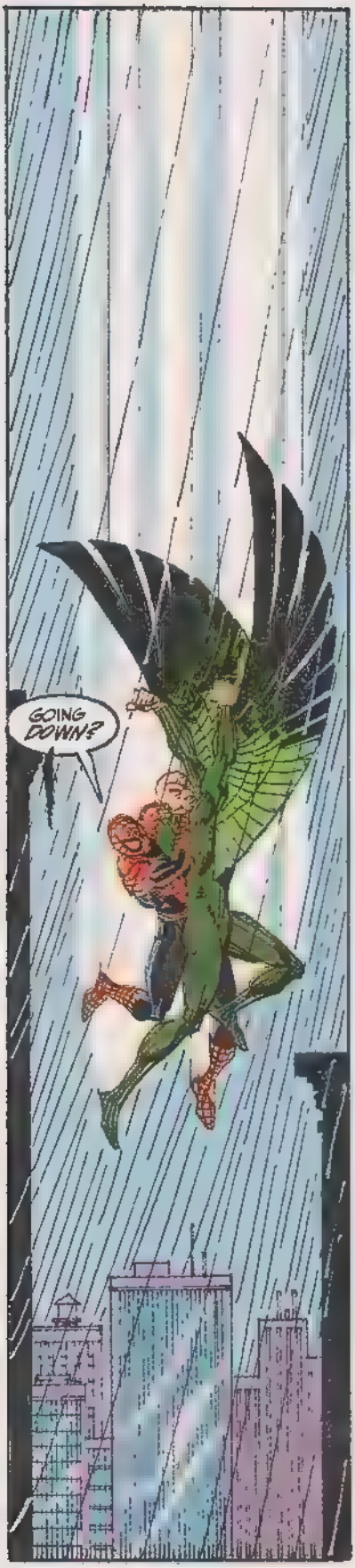

AND HE ALMOST NAILED ME! BUT-- HOW? HE'S NEVER BEEN THIS FAST BEFORE!
WELL, I GUESS I CAN FIGURE THAT OUT LATER! RIGHT NOW, I'VE GOT TO TAKE THE OL' GEEZER DOWN... TURN HIM OVER TO THE COPS...

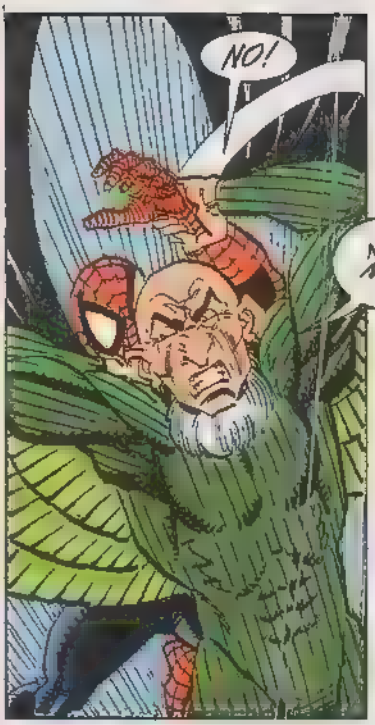

...AND GET TO AUNT MAY'S BY SEVEN!
SORRY ADRIAN, OL' PAL--BUT I HAVEN'T REALLY GOT TIME FOR LIFE-AND-DEATH BATTLES RIGHT NOW--
--SO WHY DON'T YOU JUST SURRENDER AND SAVE US BOTH A LOT OF--

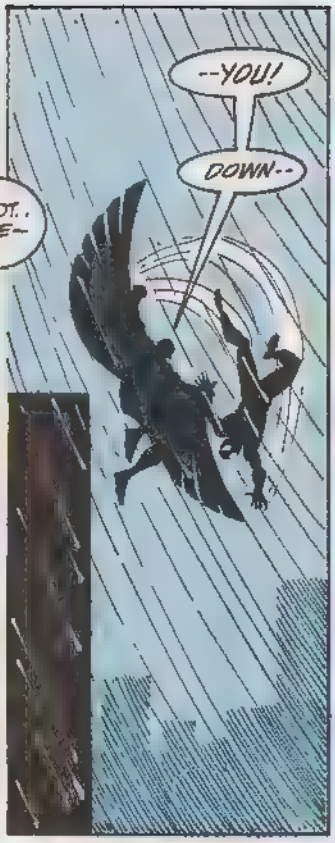
WHOA!!

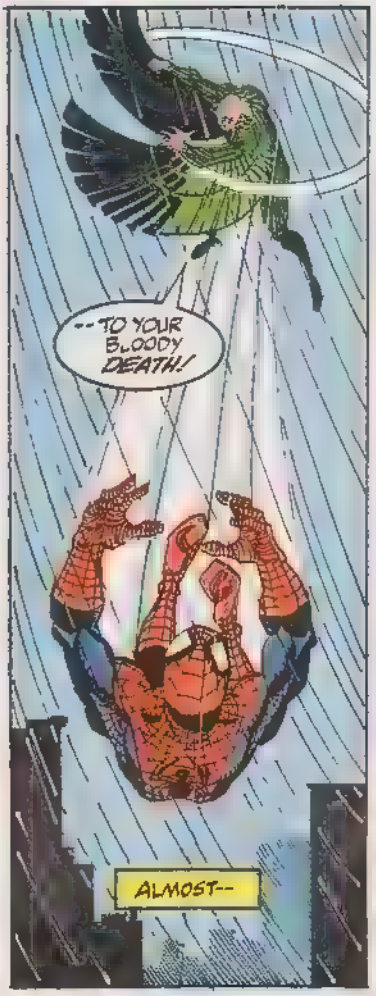
SPEED, SPIDER-MAN! AND STRENGTH! MORE THAN I'VE EVER HAD!
I'VE PUSHED THE POWER-LEVELS ON MY ELECTRO-MAGNETIC HARNESS FARTHER THAN I'VE EVER DARED PUSH THEM!
AFTER ALL-- THERE'S NO POINT IN WORRYING ABOUT SAFETY LIMITS NOW, IS THERE?

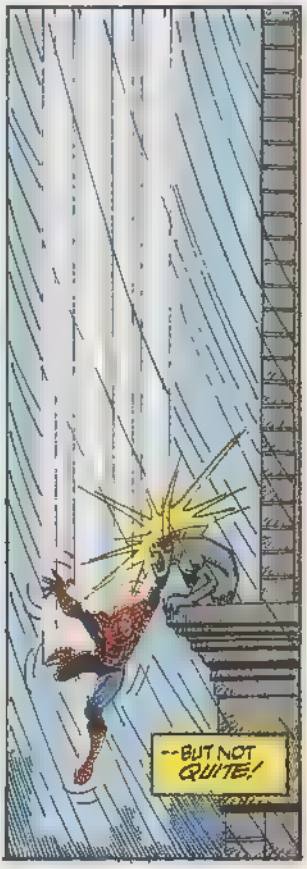

I DON'T QUITE FOLLOW YOU-- BUT IF TRYING TO SMASH ME INTO THAT BUILDING IS THE BEST THE "NEW, IMPROVED" VULTURE CAN DO--
--I'D GO BACK TO THE WING-FACTORY AND ASK FOR A REFUND!


GOING DOWN?


NO!
NOT.. ME--


--YOU!
DOWN--


--TO YOUR BLOODY DEATH!
ALMOST--


--BUT NOT QUITE!

HE WASN'T KIDDING ABOUT INCREASED POWER LEVELS! HE NEVER COULD'VE TOSSED ME OFF SO EASILY BEFORE!
NOW, WHERE'D HE GO?
RAIN'S GETTING SO HEAVY I CAN HARDLY SEE A--
WATCH
YOUR
BACK!
GONE?

BULLPEN BULLETINS

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Hi, Heroes,

Here's indisputable proof that we really read the letters you send, and that your suggestions are important to us! During the past year, I've gotten tons of mail about the Spider-Man strip which appears in more than 500 papers daily and Sunday. You know what most of the writers kept demanding? They insisted that we use other Marvel characters as guest stars! And here's the proof I promised. If you pick up any of those 500 plus newspapers right now, you'll witness the suspenseful climax of Spidey's challenge to Dr. Doom! That's right, believer, I said Dr. Doom! But the menacing monarch of Latveria is only the first of a whole line of Marvel guest stars coming up in Spidey's newspaper strip, in response to *your* requests! In just another few weeks, our amazin' arachnid's next major battle will bring him face to face with none other than everyone's favorite master of the mystic arts, the weird but wonderful Dr Strange! And that's just for starters! So never let it be said that you, the mighty Marvel reader, don't snap your fingers and make us hop! Hey, by the way, if there are any special guest stars you'd like to see in any upcoming strips, just send your suggestion directly to the editor of your local newspaper. He'll tabulate your votes and send us the results — and it'll give me more time to write the stories instead of opening a zillion envelopes! And if, through some grievous oversight or monumental error, your local newspaper isn't carrying Spidey's daily and Sunday episodes, just write the editor a letter telling how you feel about being deprived of some of Spidey's most offbeat adventures, especially since ol' webhead's finally going gung-ho with a pandemonious plethora of the world's greatest stars! But that's enough homework for you for now. So till next ish, have the happiest of New Years and, wherever you go, whatever you do — think Marvel!

Excelsior!

Stan

Stan Lee

What? January already? We haven't finished breaking all our resolutions from last year yet! It seems you just can't go 365 days without another year passing by.

One thing you won't want to pass by is GROO THE WANDERER, the hilarious barbarian comic that reminds us just how funny cheese dip is. Starting with issue #87, GROO will only be available in comics specialty shops and by subscription. GROO-creator **Sergio Aragones** (not to be confused with fashion designer Sergio Valenti) was concerned that his loyal newsstand readers wouldn't be able to find GROO, so he asked us to mention it here on the page. That's why Sergio did that GROO illustration for the BP page last month, although we forgot to tell you why till this month! Guess we committed a GROO-ism! That's a little inside joke for readers of GROO. And if you're not a reader of GROO, you should be! It features some of the funniest barbarian bi-jinx since the time Conan crashed one of those rich high-society dinner parties!

The Avengers won't be throwing any parties for a while — not since we held the Avengers summit in upstate New York last September. This was a one-day out-of-office retreat by the writers and editors of all the Avengers titles to plot out the massive 19-part extravaganza, *Operation: Galactic Storm*, beginning this month. (It would have run 20 parts, but we cut out one of the fight scenes.) This is an epic outer space saga featuring a war between the Kree and the Sh'iar, which will cross over into both Avengers books, plus THOR, CAPTAIN AMERICA, QUASAR, WONDER MAN, IRON MAN, and BARBIE FASHION. (Just kidding about that last one — we wanted to see if you were paying attention.

Among those present at the retreat: editors **Tom DeFalco, Mark Gruenwald, Ralph Macchio, Bob Harras, Nel Yomtov, Kelly Corvese,** and **Fabian Nicieza,** WONDER MAN writer **Gerard Jones,** AVENGERS WEST COAST chronicler **Roy Thomas,** and brand-new IRON MAN scribe **Len Kaminski.** (None of the above-named Marveloids is to be confused with funnyman Nipsey Russell.) Together, these men have concocted a storyline so vast in scope, so complex in theme, so convex in comparison to a flat plane, that it makes GONE WITH THE WIND look like an epic.

Another truly monumental event occurred here at mighty Marvel recently, as legendary inker **Joe Sinnott** (not to be confused with Frank Sinatra) celebrated his 65th birthday. About thirty of Joe's closest friends and biggest fans got together for a big combination semi-retirement/semi-birthday bash. Photos of the event appear in this month's MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE, along with an in-depth interview with Joe "Boy, have I got a lot of stories to tell" Sinnott himself. We'd like to wish Joe all the best. He's truly one of the greats. In fact, even though he's semi-retired we think it would be a sin-not to give him more work. (Okay, so we're allowed one bad joke per page.)

We interrupt this Bullpen Page for a special request from our Submissions Department. If you have work you would like to submit to Marvel, PLEASE DO NOT CALL US. Any aspiring writers and artists are requested to MAIL in their work to us with a self-addressed, stamped envelope. We will then look over your work and give you a response. The phones have just been ringing off the floors lately, and we've been so busy taking calls, we haven't had time to look over your work! If you're really good, SHOW us, don't TELL us how good you are.

We now return you to your regularly scheduled Bullpen Page, already in progress.

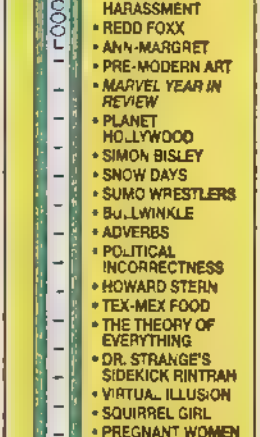
... and so DeFalco said, "Yeah, I'll believe that — when NIGHT NURSE gets her own book again!"

One guy who's got something better than his own book is **Mike Lackey** (not to be confused with Bob Mackie, the guy who used to design the dresses on the old Carol Burnett show). Mike, as you'll recall, was famous for having the smallest desk here at Marvel. Well, people can no longer scoff at Mike and say his is smaller than everyone else's, as he now has an actual, honest to gosh, sturdy enough to put his feet up on desk! Mike now shares an office with **Kelly Corvese** (not to be confused with Telly Savalas), while still serving as MARVEL AGE assistant editor to **Renee Witterstaetter** (not to be confused with our kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Widderstrom).

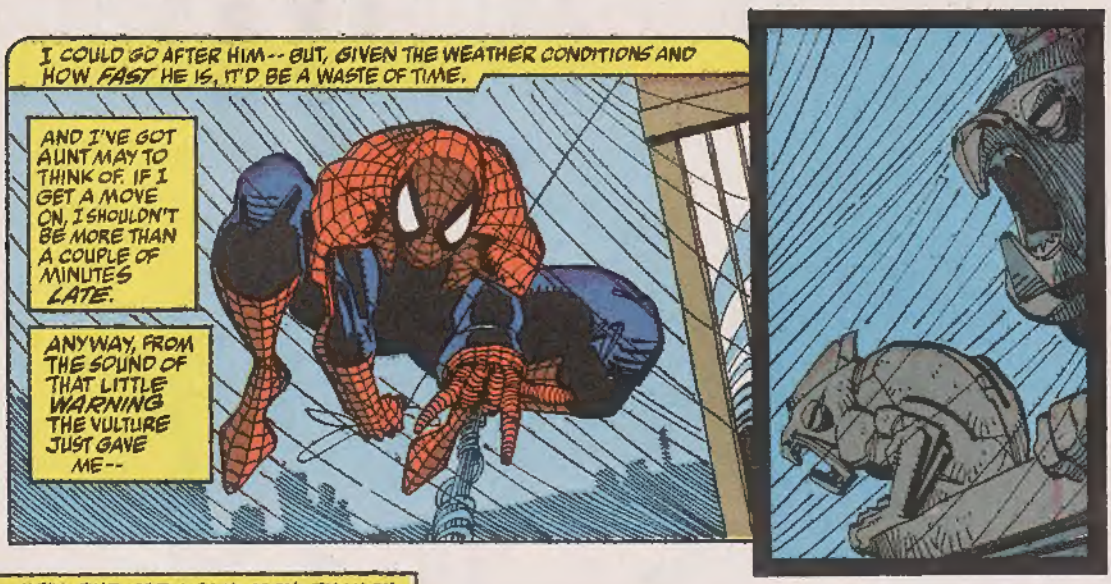
We're running short on space, so in passing, we'll note that the lovely and talented executive editor **Bob Budiansky** (not to be confused with Buddy Hackett) recently got married to the lovelier and more talented **Angela Goodman,** and that HULK-writer **Peter David** (not to be confused with the brilliant novelist David Peters) and his wife, non-HULK-writer **Myra David,** recently gave birth to a little mermaid named **Ariel.** Congratulations, all.

In closing, we would like to leave you with our foremost New Year's resolution. We resolve that this year, mighty Marvel will not resort to any cheap gimmicks to sell our books. We will not do any multiple covers, glow-in-the-dark covers, 3-D covers, hologram covers, embossed covers, peanut butter and jelly covers, or any tacky promotional tricks to sell our ... What's that? You folks like all those special format covers? Then forget the resolution — no sooner made than broken!

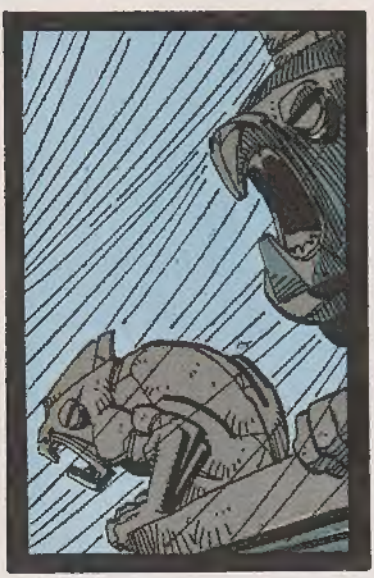
JANUARY COOLOMETER

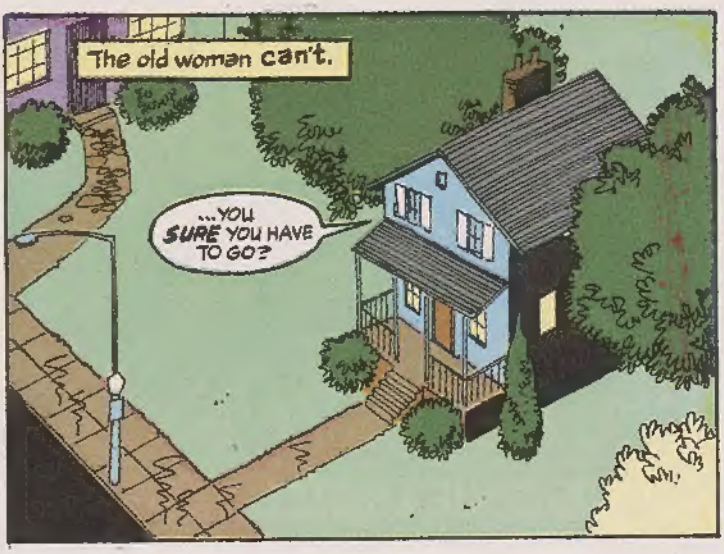


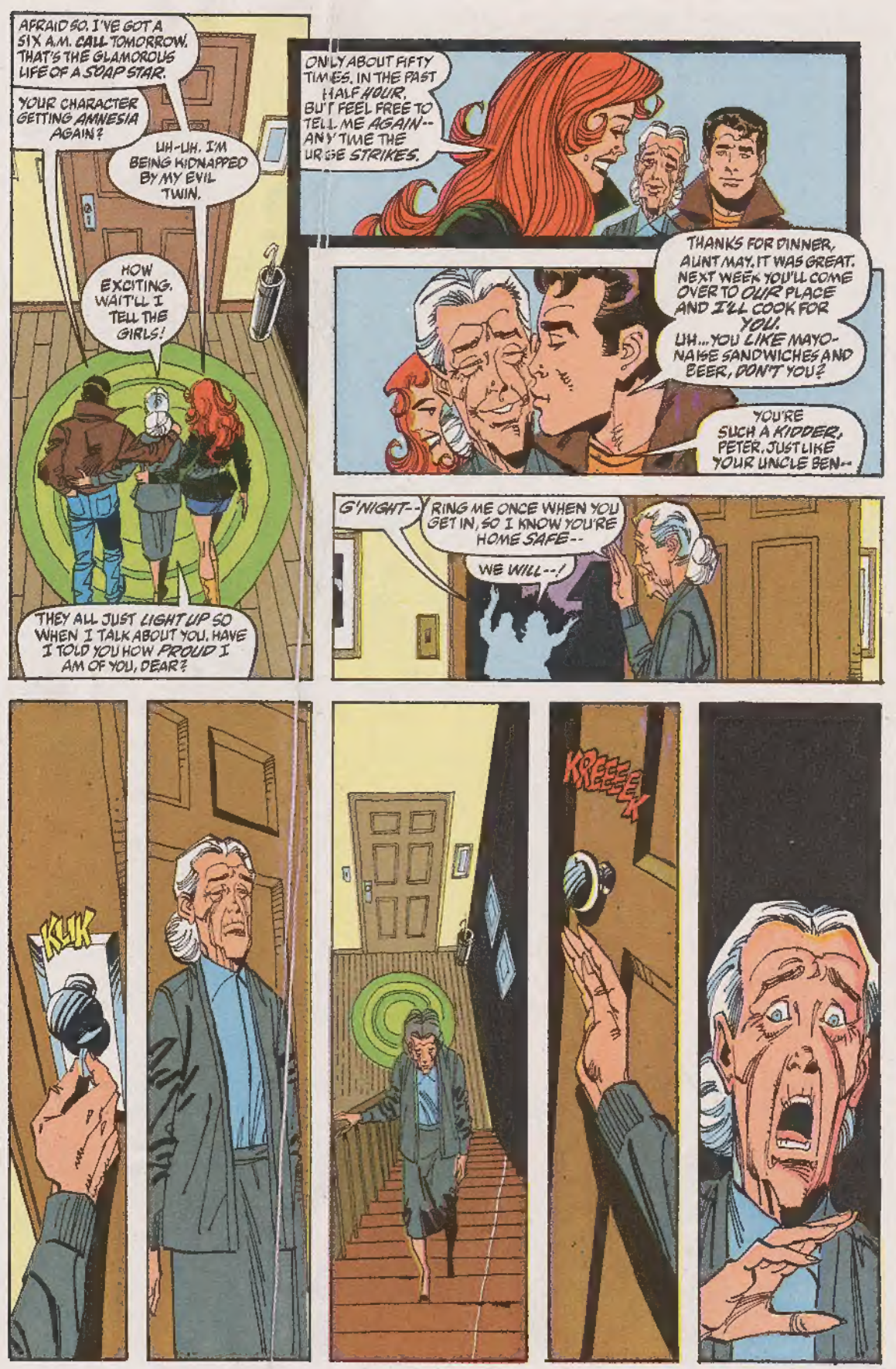
- NON-SEXUAL HARASSMENT
- REDD FOXX
- ANN-MARGRET
- PRE-MODERN ART
- *MARVEL YEAR IN REVIEW*
- PLANET HOLLYWOOD
- SIMON BISLEY
- SNOW DAYS
- SUMO WRESTLERS
- BULLWINKLE
- ADVERBS
- POLITICAL INCORRECTNESS
- HOWARD STERN
- TEX-MEX FOOD
- THE THEORY OF EVERYTHING
- DR. STRANGE'S SIDEKICK RINTRAH
- VIRTUAL ILLUSION
- SQUIRREL GIRL
- PREGNANT WOMEN ON MAGAZINE COVERS
- PARODIES OF SAME
- *SCARLETT: THE SEQUEL TO GONE WITH THE WIND*

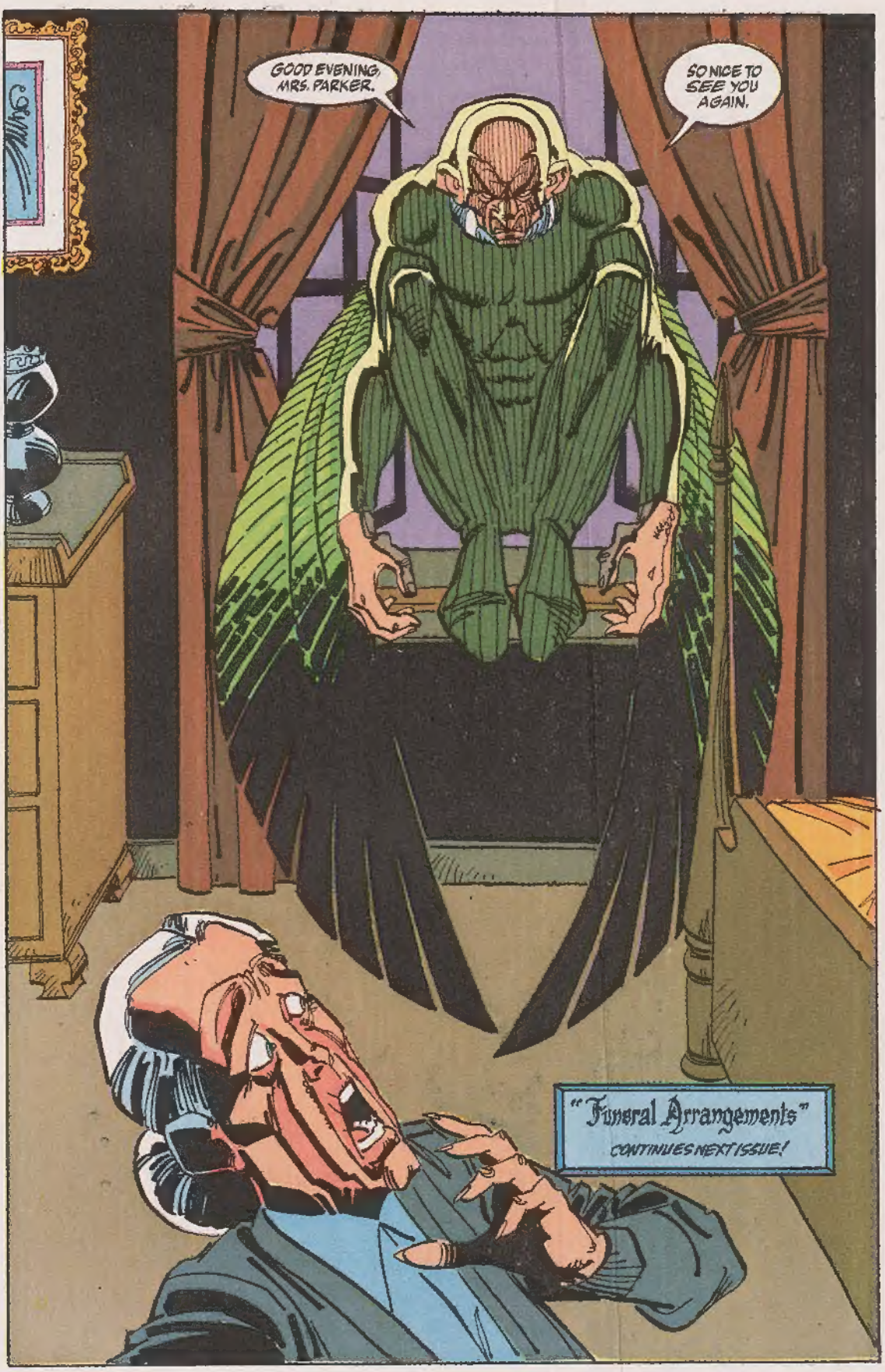

I COULD GO AFTER HIM-- BUT, GIVEN THE WEATHER CONDITIONS AND HOW FAST HE IS, IT'D BE A WASTE OF TIME.
AND I'VE GOT AUNT MAY TO THINK OF. IF I GET A MOVE ON, I SHOULDN'T BE MORE THAN A COUPLE OF MINUTES LATE.
ANYWAY, FROM THE SOUND OF THAT LITTLE WARNING THE VULTURE JUST GAVE ME--

--HE'LL FIND ME AGAIN, SOON ENOUGH.
I'd love to murder you now, Spider-Man. More than Bestman... more than any of them... it's your blood I'm after.
But I think I'll savor it... peck away at you, bit-by-bit-by-bit.
Besides, I've got more pressing business to attend to tonight. You can wait.




The old woman can't.
...YOU SURE YOU HAVE TO GO?


AFRAID SO. I'VE GOT A SIX A.M. CALL TOMORROW. THAT'S THE GLAMOROUS LIFE OF A SOAP STAR.
YOUR CHARACTER GETTING AMNESIA AGAIN?
UH-UH. I'M BEING KIDNAPPED BY MY EVIL TWIN.
HOW EXCITING. WAIT'LL I TELL THE GIRLS!
THEY ALL JUST LIGHT UP SO WHEN I TALK ABOUT YOU. HAVE I TOLD YOU HOW PROUD I AM OF YOU, DEAR?
ONLY ABOUT FIFTY TIMES. IN THE PAST HALF HOUR. BUT FEEL FREE TO TELL ME AGAIN-- ANY TIME THE URGE STRIKES.
THANKS FOR DINNER, AUNT MAY. IT WAS GREAT. NEXT WEEK YOU'LL COME OVER TO OUR PLACE AND I'LL COOK FOR YOU. UH... YOU LIKE MAYONAISE SANDWICHES AND BEER, DON'T YOU?
YOU'RE SUCH A KIDDER, PETER. JUST LIKE YOUR UNCLE BEN--
G'NIGHT--
RING ME ONCE WHEN YOU GET IN, SO I KNOW YOU'RE HOME SAFE--
WE WILL--!
KLIK
KREEEEEEK


GOOD EVENING, MRS. PARKER.
SO NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN.
"Funeral Arrangements"
CONTINUES NEXT ISSUE!

SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAIL

MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

DANNY FINGEROTH
EDITOR
ERIC FEIN
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Attention correspondents: All letters considered for publication must include your name and address, though we will withhold that information upon request.

Dear Danny,

J.M. DeMatteis and Sal Buscema are on the right track toward adding a new dimension to the Spider-Man/Green Goblin conflict. If "The Child Within" does what "Kraven's Last Hunt" did for the growth of Peter Parker as Spider-Man, then I'm betting there are other changes in store for our once-friendly neighborhood web-slinger!

Sir Jon Johnson
64 Indian Hill Avenue
Portland, CT 06480

We've got changes in store galore, Sir Jon! And a fantastic follow-up to "Child" coming up in issue #189, a giant-size issue with gold-foil embossed, wraparound cardboard covers, part of our Spider-Man 30th Anniversary celebration!

And speaking of ch-ch-ch-changes...you won't want to miss the changes the Hobgoblin is going through in the WEB OF SPIDER-MAN storyline, "Name of the Rose!"

Spider-Folk;

I must admit that a few months ago I decided that I would drop *all* of the SPIDER-books from my list of titles I thought were worth getting. I simply felt that the stories were getting tired and that there really wasn't anything else that the old web-head could possibly do. However, in the past four months I have *completely* changed my mind, and that is due mostly to "The Child Within" storyline in SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN. I really feel that this is one of your best stories in recent times. It is now obvious to me that you *are* indeed capable of continuing to create and redefine a character that has apparently earned its classic stature in the comics world. I hope that my renewed faith in your titles isn't unfounded and that you continue to produce quality stories.

Unfortunately, it seems that too many people in the comics industry have decided that the art is more important than the story, and have subsequently compromised story quality for that which would translate into something more visually stunning. Admittedly, bad art detracts from a good plot, but no amount of artistic talent can turn a mediocre plot into quality storytelling.

Harry Slomovits
162 S. Formosa Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90036

Dear Spectacular Spider Mail,

I just finished issue #181, and I can't contain myself! I think the plot is excellent: e.g. the foreshadowing, the in-depth character analysis, and especially the parallels and contrasts between the pasts of Peter, Harry, and Edward. This is not only the best Spidey story in years, but certainly a landmark in Spidey history.

After approximately a thousand appearances over the years, this story has uniquely deepened our understanding of who Spidey is and why he is what he is. Everything that I know about Peter (and Spidey) is enriched by the very intricate way J.M. DeMatteis places the roots of Peter's obsession in guilt over the loss of his parents. As I am now completing my doctorate in psychology, I feel I can say this is very realistic. J.M. clearly has a considerable understanding of personality theory and has elegantly applied it here. He has further advanced what Marvel is famous for--he has made Peter Parker all the more human and *real*.

Let me close with some constructive criticism. I have collected all of the Spidey titles for years and I have found the multiple, unrelated, short stories very confusing. The best stories are developed over many issues, e.g. the Jackal storyline ending in ASM #149, which lasted almost 2 years. Although many may not be patient enough for that, the problem could be solved by using all 4 Spidey mags to tell the story. Weekly Spidey stories--what more could anyone want in life?

Daniel Haushild
(Address withheld by request)

***Weekly* Spidey stories, Daniel? The mighty Marvel Bullpen just went crazy. Are you open for business yet, Doc?**

(But seriously--as we say in show biz--you'll be seeing some terrific storylines in all four Spidey books in the year ahead and beyond. Whenever possible, we will crossover between them, and will do our best to make those times super special events.)

Dear awesome, bodacious, radical, gnarley, SPECTACULAR SPIDEY dudes,

The art suddenly got totally better on Issue #181. Maybe it's just me. I *especially* loved issue #181. It was great when Spider-Man almost went insane and crashed through the window with his mask off, pleading, "Help me."

Keep up the totally awesome work! Until Spider-Man goes bald and takes a part as a singing clown, Make Mine Marvel!

Will Leonard
2510 North Elkins Road
Midland, TX 79705

We think Sal's been doing stupendous work all along, Will. But maybe since he teamed up with J.M, he's been just that much more inspired. And they're just getting warmed up!

Dear Danny and Eric,

We were reading SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #181 (The Child Within, Part 4 of 6). It said that Norman Osborn, the original Green Goblin was dead. We were wondering if you could tell us how it happened, since we missed it.

Todd Graumann
Daniel Fink
(Addresses withheld by request)

Guys, Norman died in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #122, reprinted in MARVEL TALES #101. It was at the same time Peter's one-time love Gwen Stacey was murdered by Norman. And it was the event that helped push poor Harry into becoming the second G.G. Try to get ahold of the story. It's a tear-jerkin' treat.

Next: "Funeral Arrangements," part two. The Vulture intends to set things straight with Aunt May--just like he did with *Bestman*! Be here!

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE
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	Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months	Actual no. of single issue nearest to filing date
A. Total No. Copies Printed (net press run)	337,833	337,200
B. Paid and/or requested Circulation: 1) Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors and counter sales	201,900	206,100
2) Mail subscriptions	200,500	201,100
C. Total Paid and/or requested Circulation (sum of 10B1 and 10B2)	402,400	407,200
D. Free Distribution by mail, carrier, or other means, samples, complimentary, and other free copies	125	125
E. Total Distribution (sum of C and D)	402,525	407,325
F. Copies Not Distributed: 1) Office use, left-over, unaccounted, spoiled after printing	250	250
2) Returns from News Agents	129,775	130,725
G. Total (sum of E, F1 and 2 should equal net press run shown in A)	337,833	337,200

11. I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.

(signed) Diane Rivera — Asst. VP Subscriptions